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Docket No. UF-168C2D1
Serial No. 10/001,560

09/007,939; filed January 16, 1998 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,322,498; issued November 27, 2001); which is a continuation-in-part of co-pending patent application Serial No. PCT/US97/17954, filed October 6, 1997; which is a continuation of patent application Serial No. 08/725,779 filed October 4, 1996 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,115,523; issued September 5, 2000).

Please replace the Abstract (page 21) as originally filed with the replacement Abstract (page 21) attached hereto.

In the claims:

1. (currently amended) An intubation imaging stylet for intubating a patient by use in a tube/imaging stylet combination, said imaging stylet comprising:

a malleable stylet having a longitudinal axis and a proximal end and a distal end;

a flexible image guide having a longitudinal axis and a proximal end and a distal end, said image guide being connected to said stylet such that a portion of said image guide runs parallel to a portion of said stylet along the longitudinal axis of said stylet and such that the distal end of said image guide is co-extensive with the distal end of said stylet; and

[means for viewing an image, said viewing means being connected to the proximal end of said image guide;]

at least one flexible illumination fiber having a proximal end and a distal end, said illumination fiber being connected to said stylet such that a portion of said illumination fiber runs parallel to a portion of said stylet along the longitudinal axis of said stylet and such that the distal end of said illumination fiber is co-extensive with the distal end of said stylet; [, and

a removable sheath having a longitudinal axis and at least one open end, said sheath disposed around the distal ends of said stylet, said image guide, and said illumination fiber such that the longitudinal axis of said sheath substantially coincides with or is parallel with the longitudinal axis of said stylet]

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such that in use, said imaging stylet is disposed within a tube for intubating a patient thereby forming an imaging stylet/tube combination which in use is held by gripping the tube in a pen-like fashion.

2. (currently amended) An imaging stylet according to claim 1, further comprising a removable sheath having a longitudinal axis and at least one open end, said sheath disposed around the distal ends of said stylet, said image guide, and said illumination fiber such that the longitudinal axis of said sheath substantially coincides with or is parallel with the longitudinal axis of said stylet, wherein said sheath is adapted to isolate the distal end of said image guide from the inside of a body, and wherein said sheath comprises a transparent end portion at its distal end through which an image from the inside of a body can be received by the distal end of said image guide.

Claims 3-15 currently canceled.

16. (new) An intubation imaging stylet according to claim 1, further comprising means for viewing an image, said viewing means being connected to the proximal end of said image guide.

17. (new) The intubation imaging stylet of claim 1, wherein said image guide is plastic.

18. (new) An intubation imaging stylet according to claim 17, further comprising means for viewing an image, said viewing means being connected to the proximal end of said image guide.

19. (new) An intubation imaging stylet for intubating a patient by use in a tube/imaging stylet combination, said imaging stylet comprising:

a malleable stylet having a longitudinal axis and a proximal end and a distal end;

a flexible image guide having a longitudinal axis and a proximal end and a distal end, said image guide being connected to said stylet such that a portion of said image guide runs parallel to

a portion of said stylet along the longitudinal axis of said stylet and such that the distal end of said image guide is co-extensive with the distal end of said stylet; and

at least one flexible illumination fiber having a proximal end and a distal end, said illumination fiber being connected to said stylet such that a portion of said illumination fiber runs parallel to a portion of said stylet along the longitudinal axis of said stylet and such that the distal end of said illumination fiber is co-extensive with the distal end of said stylet;

such that in use, said imaging stylet is disposed within a tube for intubating a patient thereby forming an imaging stylet/tube combination such that the center of balance of the imaging stylet/tube combination is essentially the same location as the center of balance of a conventional stylet/tube combination.

20. (new) An imaging stylet according to claim 19, further comprising a removable sheath having a longitudinal axis and at least one open end, said sheath disposed around the distal ends of said stylet, said image guide, and said illumination fiber such that the longitudinal axis of said sheath substantially coincides with or is parallel with the longitudinal axis of said stylet, wherein said sheath is adapted to isolate the distal end of said image guide from the inside of a body, and wherein said sheath comprises a transparent end portion at its distal end through which an image from the inside of a body can be received by the distal end of said image guide.

21. (new) An intubation imaging stylet according to claim 19, further comprising means for viewing an image, said viewing means being connected to the proximal end of said image guide.

22. (new) The intubation imaging stylet of claim 19, wherein said image guide is plastic.

23. (new) An intubation imaging stylet according to claim 22, further comprising means for viewing an image, said viewing means being connected to the proximal end of said image guide.